



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 03-006

January 10, 2003

NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING ON SURRY INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has announced an opportunity for a hearing on a license renewal application from Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) to allow continued storage of spent nuclear fuel in the independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at the Surry nuclear power plant, located in Surry County, Virginia.

The NRC staff has completed a preliminary review of the license renewal application and has determined that VEPCO submitted sufficient information for the NRC to formally "docket," or file, the April 29 application and conduct a detailed review. The license renewal term is generally 20 years; however, VEPCO requested an exemption to the regulations which, if granted, would allow the license to be renewed for 40 years. The current license will expire July 31, 2006.

A renewed license will not be approved until the NRC has thoroughly reviewed the application and determined that the renewal will not constitute an unreasonable risk to public health and safety nor pose a threat to the common defense and security. The NRC will also conduct an evaluation to assess the environmental impacts of the requested renewal.

The deadline for anyone requesting a hearing is 30 days after publication of a Federal Register Notice on this subject, expected shortly. By that time, requests must be filed by anyone whose interest might be affected by the license renewal and who wishes to participate as a party to the proceeding.

Requests for a hearing must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Document Control Desk. They may also be delivered to the NRC Public Document Room at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Because of continuing disruptions in mail delivery service to U.S. Government offices, petitions for leave to intervene and requests for hearing should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission either by fax to 301-415-1101 or by e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov. A copy of the request should also be sent by mail to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and by e-mail to OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov or fax to 301-415-3725. Additionally, a copy should be sent to David A. Christian, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations and Chief Nuclear Officer, Virginia Electric and Power Company, 5000 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060-

6711. Additional information about the opportunity for hearing may be found in the Federal Register notice.

A copy of the April 29 ISFSI renewal application is available through the NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC Public Document Room staff at 301-415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209, or by sending an e-mail message to pdr@nrc.gov. The application is also available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room in Rockville, MD.

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